

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 00172 110317Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 OES-07 DEAE-00 SNM-05 EB-08 AGRE-00
/082 W

-----112264 111124Z /17

R 101130Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0687
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0172

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SNAR, NP
SUBJECT: AUDIENCE WITH KING BIRENDRA - NARCOTICS AND POLITICAL
DEVELOPMENTS

REF: KATHMANDU 0171 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH KING JANUARY 5, I TOLD HIM
I PLANNED TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON BRIEFLY ON
CONSULTATIONS AT THE END OF JANUARY AND IT WOULD BE
HELPFUL TO HAVE HIS VIEWS ON NARCOTICS SITUATION IN
NEPAL AND ON LOCAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. REFERRING
TO ASSURANCES PRIME MINISTER BISTA HAD GIVEN ME IN
SEPTEMBER TO EFFECT HMG HAD DISCARDED ANY IDEA OF GOING
INTO OPIUM PRODUCTION I SAID I KNEW WASHINGTON WOULD
BE PLEASED TO HAVE ME REPORT THAT IS REMAINED HMG
POLICY. KING NODDED IN ASSENT.

2. AS FOR LOCAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, I SAID THAT
SINCE I HAD NOT SEEN KING PRIVATELY SINCE MY LAST
AUDIENCE IN AUGUST, I WANTED TO TAKE OPPORTUNITY
TO CONGRATULATE HIM PERSONALLY ON POSITIVE
STEPS WHICH HMG HAD TAKEN LAST FALL TO RELEASE
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POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM JAIL AND TO LIFT BAN ON
SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS. I WAS ALSO IMPRESSED BY FACT
THAT HMG HAD PERMITTED PUBLIC AIRING AND
DISCUSSION OF STATEMENT BY FOUR POLITICAL LEADERS
CALLING FOR RETURN TO PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY.
THESE ACTIONS BY HMG AND PUBLIC DEBATE ABOUT POLITICAL
INSTITUTIONS SEEMED TO ME STEPS IN RIGHT

DIRECTION. KING AGREED, ADDING THAT
HE REMAINED COMMITTED TO PARTYLESS PANCHAYAT SYSTEM
BUT HE WANTED MORE DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES
DEVELOPED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF PANCHAYAT SYSTEM.

3. AS ONE EXAMPLE OF DEMOCRATIZATION OF SYSTEM,
KING RECALLED BIRATNAGAR CONVENTION IN SEPTEMBER
(KATHMANDU 4219) WHICH HAD PRODUCED RESOLUTIONS
CALLING FOR LIBERALIZATION OF ELECTION
PROCEDURE, AND ELIMINATION OF ONE LAYER IN ELECTION
PROCESS.

4. I THEN TURNED CONVERSATION TO QUESTION OF
B.P. KOIRELA'S HEALTH AND POLITICAL
STATUS, SUBSTANCE OF WHICH REPORTED IN
KATHMANDU 0107.
HECK

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